it for their cordage, and from its great tenacity the name of *Leather wood* has been applied to it in most parts of the United States. The Canadian French called it *Bois de Plomb* or *Leaden wood* from its flexibility.

The generic character of Dirca consists in a *tubular corolla without calyx, having its border obsoletely toothed. Stamens longer than the corolla. Berry one-seeded.*

The genus contains but a single species.

Class *Octandria*, order *Monogynia*. Natural orders *Vepreculæ*, Lin. *Thymelææ*, Juss.

The Dirca is an irregular shrub somewhat distinguished by the horizontal tendency of its branches and leaves. The branches have an interrupted or jointed mode of growth. The leaves are scattered or alternate, with very short petioles. They are oval, entire, subacute, downy, when young, smooth and membranous when fully grown, and pale on the under side. The flowers appear long before the leaves. Previously to their emerging they exist in miniature within a small hairy bud, which occupies a sheath or cavity in the end of each flowering branch. They are commonly in bunches of three together with their peduncles cohering. Each flower is about half an inch long, of a yellow colour and without ca-

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